FLOATER LOG RESPONSES AND GENERAL COMMENTS 2007

1) If you did not stay at a declared boat camp at any time during your float trip, why not?

- #715 we thought the outfitter bullied us into thinking we pegged incorrectly, the truth was they had 30 people and were not moving.
- #436 bad headwinds.
- → #495 ranger said we could stay at Middle Trout Creek if we liked it better than Upper.
- #468 we missed Upper Givens Gulch and it was to late.
- > # 479 high winds
- → #380 group #391 poached our last night site at Upper Givens. They
 stated they were assigned that site, but could not substantiate with
 permit. They left campsite by our request.
- #260 stayed at declared campsite except left one day early and did not sty last night due to fishing and weather conditions.
- #269 too high of water
- > #312 missed the sign and did not keep note of the names of the subsequent campsites.
- > #321 friend left river from back pain at Heaven on Earth. We took of one day early.
- #333 double booked on Middle Ridgetop. Took Lower Butte enjoyed a beautiful camp spot.
- #370 misjudged amount of time it took to get to camp and arrived five hours earlier than expected.
- > #3 snowy icebergs
- > #9 four inches of snow we wowed out last 20 + miles.
- > #42 other people occupied it
- #43 another group took other groups camps
- > #52 first boat missed camp site
- #68 boat camp we were booked at was the same as another group so we moved down one sight.
- #71 high water so we wanted to shorten our trip
- > #75 left early 4th night
- > #76 pouring rain
- #118 left Camp Baker late to get away from the party
- #138 floated out final night due to rain
- #145 no one was at them missed eddy
- #156 we were scheduled for Upper Rattlesnake and there was a big commercial group there. Since we had our dog with us we decided it would be better to head on out. We told the commercial gear boat guy they could use Upper since we were leaving.
- > #161 Upper Bear Gulch campsite should be scrapped not acceptable
- #227 we decided to take advantage of a sunny day and push on

- > #265 took out a day early due to rain
- > #271 heavy rain and wet gear
- #701 met friends and joined them at Lower Scotty Allen
- #708 a group was already camped
- #714 Day three we did not make it early enough

2) If you were not satisfied with a boat camp at any time during your float trip, please tell us why you were dissatisfied.

- #475 too may people and noise at adjacent campsite
- #440 Upper Ridgetop has poison ivy along river and along trail to camping area.
- → #509 The site had been sprayed for weeds and we should not have been there for 489 hours as the posted sign stated and was only 24 hours.
- → #446 camps were a little close at Rattlesnake more so then others. It wasn't awful, but was less nice.
- # 453 too close to neighbors
- → #467 on 6/25 large group at Lower Givens was very loud and rowdy
 with a barking dog.
- ➤ #471 Crowsfoot limited shade available after a hot sun all day.
- > #481 too close to other camp
- ➤ #489 Trout Creek encourage the group from the property downstream
 to do their garbage run during the day when no one is there. They
 stayed by in the evening and morning. Their lights one the cliff were
 absurd.
- #496 Middle Givens Gulch was kind of small.
- #442 couple had 0 shade and one had a steep take out that was very slippery
- #435 dead animal smell
- #432 Staigmiller-rattlesnake had little shade, too far to fire ring/kitchen.
- > #411 they were clean and well kept. Thank You.
- > #408 Upper Black Butte poor pull into clay. Crowded and small camps.
- #394 Rock Creek lessen the hike to the Loo.
- #215 Scotty Allen should be recommending not for older people to climb to latrine.
- #296 we were not satisfied with Middle Trout Creek camp because of a 2-track road that goes right through it. Right at dinner time 3 huge old military trucks roaring by ripping thru the river. They were yelling and drinking and definitely seemed to enjoy disturbing the boat camps. When they were at their cabin on the other side of the river they fired up generator to power flood light to illuminate the rock wall on the opposite bank all night.
- > #327 Lower Table Rock very open no trees, Lower Black Buttealmost impossible to get up the embankment in the rain, very slick.

- #332 No trees, not much flat ground at Lower Bear Gulch- big storm: no protection.
- #333 Totally satisfied with camp spots, lived through a monsoon at Upper Trout Creek.
- #336 The fire pit at Upper Table was in the middle of a mud puddle and the landing could use a step going up because when muddy you keep falling down sliding in the mud.
- > #344 very clean
- #353 Lower Black Butte is a bit small for a large group.
- #352 Black Butte doesn't have flat tent area.
- #370 All camps were great.
- #68 Upper Trout Creek was unprotected and on a road.
- #74 Upper Givens could use a little work.
- #86 Campsites very close together.
- > #93 Last camp spot a little crowded. Latrines close to other camp.
- > #99 Sign for Givens Gulch hard to see to get off river.
- > #119 The campsites are very close together, hard to be private.
- #124 Upper Given Gulch-water too fast at tie-up. Map shows boat camp below first rapids. Sign should say: "Left Channel Above Rapids"
- #141 Latrines need improvement, more privacy & accessibility.
- #157 Putting lime buckets at the latrines with to add a measure before departing would cut down on having to dig new pits as often.
- #161 At Camp Baker a rowdy Missoula group very loud and inconsiderate.
- #179 Upper Black Butte too close to Lower Black Butte, group at lower was really loud all night.
- #198 At the Lower Bear Gulch camp there is a road through the camp area. We were forced because of the lack of trees, to put our ran tarp in the roadway.
- > #215 Great trip for me. Camps still in very nice conditions, age and weather made high latrines more noticeable this trip (Scotty Allen).
- > #234 All campsites were well spaced and very quiet.
- #238 At Trout Creek the locals were driving old army transport trucks at 11:30 at night through camp too late
- → .#253 Upper Ridge Top has difficult parking and access during wet weather and high river conditions (suggest moving parking/access around corner).
- #277 Lower Ridge Top too close to Middle Ridge Top.
- #704 Camp sites too close together, in my opinion, you should not be able to see or hear other campers.
- #714 The toilet trail and pot at Bear Gulch was very overgrown. Otherwise very pleased.
- # 178 Dogs! Dogs peeing on our tent at put in site.

- 6) Did you witness any violations during your float trip (park or fishing regulations, other)? If so, what and where? Please note the boat tag numbers if possible.
 - #715 No, well maybe yes. The outfitter had 25 + people and we thought maybe this was too many.
 - > #440 Dogs running loose.
 - > #497 Dog running around at Indian Creek Spring.
 - #500 1st night Middle Indian Spring had smoldering fire still. 3rd night Middle trout creek had trash unburned in fire pit.
 - #468 saw a large fish kill about 200 fish all about 6 inches.
 - → #481 A guided group we passed several times, one particular rower managed to position himself in our way to get thru narrows but best for the fisherman, he was hogging the river, even his paddle caught one of us in the stomach. I don't know his # but they were at next to our encampment the 1st and 2nd night. Rude guide.
 - > #483 A dozen (at least) dead suckers dumped near hike to cave on river right just before the bend.
 - ➤ #503 Upper Scotty Allen someone took a dump on the trail up to the latrine. It looked like the people that stayed just before me.
 - > #420 A person was using a bow and arrow to shoot a fish.
 - > #408 Middle Black Butte 6/16 (3 boats) fire left burning w/garbage (socks, beer cans, sponge, water bottle) We removed it and put out the fire.
 - #385 At mid and Lower Ridgetop on 6/14 there were several rounds of gunfire shot in upper Ridgetop campsite.
 - #380 Yes, Group 391 occupied our last night campsite 6/14 Upper Givens. Stated they were assigned that site but could not substantiate with permit. They left campsite at our request.
 - > #363 At Middle Givens Gulch peeing in the river as we floated by.
 - > #215 Yes Fraunhofer the fire ring had been relocated to area under tree with eight aluminum cans left. We took time to move ring back and restore the area.
 - #296 Vehicles crossing the river seems like a violation of integrity of the riparian ecosystem even if it may be legal.
 - #297 Abandoned campfire at Middle Givens Gulch and some aluminum in pit.
 - > #300 Micro trash at every campsite we visited.
 - #350 Found used charcoal briquettes under tree in Paradise Bend, otherwise no.
 - #388 At Parker Flats (2 or 3) boaters were using a chain saw to cut down a tree.
 - # 10 We picked up some minor garbage. Don't know who? No game related violations.
 - #16 Upper Cow Coulee found 3 grey foam sleeping pads, a towel, broken bottles. Very sad to see litter along the way, although I enjoyed finding the saw.

- #39 Yes, one boat had site occupied so camp below us. Lower Trout Creek.
- > #55 Lower Ridge Top: Fire ring full of warm coals and trash. Lots of micro trash scattered on the ground.
- > #62 Middle Sunset Cliff had a fair amount of garbage we hauled out.
- #72 Public intoxication
- #74 Someone putting orange peals in the river, #75 I think.
- > #94 Upper Scotty Allen had candy wrappers, cigar filters, and wire, when we arrived.
- #113 Kids with no life jackets party #127
- #120 Loose dogs every day (labs & goldens).
- #121 On 5/12 group staying at Upper Ridgetop were using chain saws to get firewood just a little farther away there was a fallen tree with plenty of wood.
- #124 Unattended campfire at Paradise Bend; 13 May.
- #140 5/13 party at Fraunhofer shot off a gun several shots, but we only heard that one incident.
- #156 Fire still burning when we arrived at Upper Parker Flat. We put it out.
- #157 Noise from one party at Camp Baker, but dealt with very professionally by the Ranger.
- #161 Yes, at Baker violation at 10pm curfew.
- #171 A # of boats without visible tags (4-5)
- #179 One group was carrying around a campground sign- Parker Flat I think they propped it up in some bushes, but I don't think it was at a camp site.
- #215 Fire ring at Upper Fraunhofer moved to North of "Wildlife Tree" most likely due to wind rain of previous evening. Our group replaced ring to original site and cleaned up rogue fire ring.
- > #234 On 5/25 at 1:00 am there were two six wheel drive vehicles crossing stream (Watkins).
- ➤ #245 There was an illegal fire ring at Lower Givens in the woods.
- #277 Cutting branches off of live trees at Middle Ridge Top camp the last night.
- #708 Groups taking assigned spots.
- #714 The campsite at Lowe Ridgetop was very nice but had a lot of trace (marring trees, ect.) including trash.
- → # 2 Our declared camp for 4/19 was Syringa. This is a great campsite but it had been trashed by a previous group.
 - * There was a lot of micro-trash scattered around the area including egg shells and plastic food wrap material. There was no regard for good sanitation as we found several surface shits within 30-40' of the camp and river. These were just up river and along the hillside adjacent to camp. This was not dog shit. There was fresh toilet paper with it.
 - * Some one had also left a large broken aluminum and fabric camp chair.
 - *The fire ring was moved to a location directly beneath the large Douglas fir in the center of camp. This was an obvious attempt to shield from the elements as it was snowing heavily on 4/18. We did not notice this until

after some snow had melted and we walked through the original intended fire ring location.

* At Crows Foot on 4/21 there was a fresh rock ring fire pit located directly under the canopy of a Douglas fir. There was minimal ash and disturbance so we rehabbed the site as best as possible and scattered the rock. Again, this appeared to have occurred during the weather on 4/18-4/19. Placement of a fire ring under the canopy of a fir is not only a demonstration of poor woodsman ship skills, but also a p[potential roman candle after a prolonged dry spell.

It appeared that all of the above happened during the foul weather. Much of the garbage and human turds were not seen until we either walked on it or the snow melted enough for it to be seen. There was still an inch or two on the ground the morning of the 20th so I expect there was more garbage in the camp that we could not see. We cleaned up the micro-trash but left the chair and fire ring in place. I wasn't comfortable with relocating the ring to another site until all the snow was gone.

8) Any other comments you have about your Smith River trip or about the river in general are more than welcome.

- #483 Floater fees were cheap-would pay double! Camps were nice, mostly private and well kept. We saw lots of wildlife-were buzzed by bald eagle one day.
- > #488 Gorgeous
- #489 Always a great trip. Hard to complain. Too many other boats from the in to Trout Creek. The Trout Creek campsites are bad. It must be because they are in between the golf course and private site downstream. Another suggestion: The Black Butte campsite should all be one site. The Upper and Lower are way too close together and there are lots of sites to choose from in the area.
- > #491 Very Scenic River float. Fishing was slow, oh well.
- #494 It was awesome! Thanks
- > #496 It was a great float.
- > #503 Reduce group size.
- #466 We had a great trip.
- #442 It was great, well managed! Don't change a thing.
- #434 Great trip! The Smith again as always. Beautiful glorious floating enjoyed by al!
- #432 Bear at Lower Trout Creek that was not shy. Could be a problem in the future. Excellent trip. Want to do trip again with more friends and family.
- #430 Guide running #418 stopping boats in middle of rapids for fishing, makes passage for everyone else difficult. Very unthoughtful.
- #422 Great trip!
- > #420 Too much machinery and road building at private sites the first day.
- > #418 Bob double booked us at Lower Givens.

- → #413 Lower Ridge Top and Middle Ridge Top had at least 20 people
 which seemed excessive, group sixes should be reduced.
- ➤ #408 6/16/07 At upper Bear Gulch we stopped for latrine, found hot smoking coals in fire pit and garbage in fire pit (plastic tube and lid, foil strawberries) we put out fire and removed garbage. Not sure who left it, could have been a lunch group.
- #404 Other floaters were very friendly and we had no trouble, but it did feel like there were a lot of people on the river. This is a marvelous resource. Bob is a great campground host.
- > #400 It was a great experience.
- > #399 Awesome river
- #398 Pay someone to dig latrines. We are opposed to carrying out waste! The money is there.
- #386 Great job FWP
- #384 We feel MT residents should receive preferences in the permit drawing process for example MT^ should have 2 to 1 odds to draw a permit. Primarily on this trip there were people from the south Idaho, Spokane and California we spoke with. We wish our sons could have come, but we were here on a canceled permit and had two-day notice. Thank you for all your work to maintain this MT treasure. The Smith ranger Kirk on Mon June 11 did a great job managing the put in with 100 +m people and gave a great pre launch talk for that huge group!
- ➤ #379 Either limit # of launches further or limit group size, but there are too many people on the river. Also, some groups seem to lack boat etiquette (e.g. rigging on the put-in ramp, and putting it in the middle of a group floating by).
- #378 Ant hills at Lower Rock Garden, Toilet seat at Lower Rock Garden is broken
- #372 Loved everything about it!
- > #371 Great time! Great week! Great memories! Thanks
- #367 Great experience, we loved it! Thanks
- #363 Keep the latrines, no pack it out. One of our party got hung up on the tree near Paradise Bend.
- → #351 Campsite selection process ok, campsites were clean, other floaters
 were polite. Lots of leafy spurge-use bio control. Don't want to pack out
 poo. Fee for waste disposal ok. We pulled weeds!
- > #339 Thank You
- > #338 Parker Flat sign down.
- #263 Toilets are the best! Great views!
- > #28 Great!
- #36 Brought a sign out that was on slope its at the take out.
- > #269 Garbage in fire ring at Syringa first night.
- #276 Ranger Kirk is swell, knowledgeable, super helpful and conscientious, a great steward of the Smith and an excellent educatorgive him a raise!
- #278 Trim more willows and bushes at rapids 2 so we can line boat easier.
- > #281 Limit group size!

- → #284 The group talk at the beginning involving all floaters makes for a shotgun start and is very, very crowded. It well be hard on the river when the flow gets lower.
- #296 It was a beautiful float, really a rare experience with the combination of good intermediate floating, fishing, camping and scenery. The permit system and designated camps, etc. help preserve the experience. If there are opportunities to purchase public land along the river the state should pursue them.
- #295 Did not see any bears and have never had any bear problems (been floating Smith since 1981).
- #300 I would suggest that you inform people that last year's hounds tongue is a great kindling. I strongly recommend a Hore ecological and safer trail be made to the Pictograph cave below Parker Flat. If and when you begin the poop buckets we recommend leaving the lat4erine sights so all people use the same spot, privacy is insure.
- → #301 Contours along riverbed and canyons and houses marked on map.

 Better map. Less launches a day or fewer people per launch-groups of 1 to 7.
- #309 We don't believe there is not more room to dig pit toilets. Hire two college students to dig holes.
- > #311 Thanks for the great float and weather.
- > #312 Regarding # 1 question, if the campsites had numbers, in addition to names, we would have noted our mistake earlier, and may have been able avoid it.
- > #313 Thank you
- #314 Great trip
- > #317 We were doubled booked (Middle Ridgetop) with a bunch of drunks.
- → #319 One member of our party had a family emergency occur while on the river. She received a message at the takeout. We appreciated that service.
- #321 Ranger Bob was really helpful with our friend and his back going out. Thank you. Had a critter problem at Syringa getting on the raft for goodies.
- > #323 Great river-clean-great job.
- #326 Beautiful river!
- #332 Loved it overall. Really want to do it again. Many sections seem like wilderness.
- → #333 Might need to emphasize the need for shuttle arrangements prior to launch date. Trip was total "the Bomb" try again next year.
- #336 The landing at upper Table Rock could use a step going up the embankment because when muddy you keep falling down sliding in the mud.
- #344 This is certainly God's country! We loved it!
- → #353 Perhaps you could use a system for picking campsites in which each
 person receives a number upon arrival, and then they could go in that
 order. We had a great trip!
- > #354 Ask for volunteers to help with weed control, digging latrines, clean up, many of us willing.

- #341 Need better mapping, designate hiking trails, poison ivy signs on hiking trails.
- #342 Too many outfitters, unfair allotment!
- > #366 Campsites were well kept. Ranger made good recommendations.
- > #368 Lots of fun!
- ➤ #350 Beautiful canyon, camps were all wonderful and well marked, pit toilets are fantastic bonus and much appreciated. Toilets alone worth the fifty-dollar fee. We hope to return in many future years! Thank you
- > #356 The sign at Parker Flat # 1 was knocked down.
- ➤ #383 The permit holder filled this log every night with the input of the
 whole group. We all had a memorable trip and hope and pray that we can
 protect this beautiful place for the future generations to cherish.
- #3 Wonderful place, saw western painted turtle, had wild turkeys in camp at Cow coulee.
- #6 Best fishing experience this time of year ever!! One beautiful party!!
- > #9 The fishing was better than told even after ice damage. Best river float around!
- #10 Steep campsite trails should be rip rapped or graveled for safer ascents and less erosion. No treble hooks and barbless only. Thanks
- > # Please design a latrine cover that covers the entire seat by overlapping the sides, you'd really make a gal smile on a snowy morning.
- #17 Ranger should advise floaters about best camps for inclimate weather. Thanks
- > #38 This management works, changing the latrine set up will only encourage misuse.
- #39 Picked up trash at quite a few sites.
- > #42 Designation camps were not followed so we were forced to camp elsewhere which was no problem.
- > #50 Great float thanks for all your work on campsites
- → #55 Fantastic, had no idea. Only one member of our group had done this
 trip before. We were all thrilled with how beautiful the canyon is and the
 campsites were a pleasant surprise each night as far as spaciousness and
 views are concerned. Great weather each day. We loved it.
- #62 weeds are getting worse each year. Litter is an increasing problem. Campsites are getting hammered.
- #67 Loved seeing all the wildlife and how well preserved the environment is.
- #68 Beautiful river, well signed camps.
- > #72 Tables at camping sites are needed to reduce impact on land.
- #73 Wonderful latrines, nice management. Access to H2O at Camp Baker, please.
- ➤ #74 Thanks FWP for all the nice firewood at Upper Rock Garden, we enough for the whole trip.
- # 75 Great Campsites!!
- #78 It was great. Fishing was poor due to high muddy water.
- #81 Great river!
- #85 Great as usual
- #86 Great float thanks a ton!

- > #89 Thanks to all involved parties to make this accessible.
- #90 It was a great float. We just caught the river at 8900cfs. Not good for fishing. I think the FWP is doing a fine job at maintaining the Smith.
- > #94 If latrine at Upper Scotty Allen wasn't so steep, I'd say very satisfied. If it weren't for the road at Lower Trout, I'd say very satisfied.
- #99 Departure brief was great ranger very professional. Seen lots of turkeys!
- #102 Great staff at put in and take out.
- ▶ #107 beautiful river
- #113 Ended sharing a camp with party #188 Middle Givens Gulch. Both parties claiming to have camp reserved.
- #119 The human waste should be made to be less of an impact.
- #120 Bag the "pack out your scat" plan. Keep digging new pits (sorry rangers). Ask us to do volunteer digging floats we will work!
- #132 Wonderful family trip well kept river.
- #133 Noxious weeds are out of control. Leafy Spurge, Hounds tongue and thistle. Campgrounds covered on them!
- ➤ #134 Keep the pit toilets. Hire high school kids to dig holes.
- #135 Good river! Let people know to pour water in toilets. We didn't know until our 3rd year.
- # 138 Would like to see a lottery system in effect on day of launch for groups to determine order of campsite selection.
- #140 We had a wonderful time all campsites ere nice, ranger at Camp Baker helpful and friendly (thanks). We didn't want our rip to end.
- #141 Latrine at Table Rock very difficult to access, discourages people to use it.
- #143 I realize that the latrines are an issue. I had brought my own portable system just in case it was needed. Still, I am amazed that you don't require boaters to bring their own system.
- > #144 Great trip
- #145 Thanks for the float. Did see a lot of garbage.
- > #146 Like the outdoor toilets, hopefully you will keep them.
- #147 Leafy spurge is creeping in needs to be eradicated.
- #153 Ranger Kirk was very helpful in choosing campsites and with other good advice.
- #154 Kirk was excellent! The take out host was wonderful too. Toilets very well jug and well placed. I loved it all!
- #155 Dogs should be more welcomed on the Smith. It's a great experience for them too!
- #156 Really like having assigned camps. We did some clean up, but for the most part they're in great shape. How about a volunteer trip to improve Canyon Depth put in?
- #157 The Camp Baker ranger was very helpful and professional, and the Eden Bridge staff was very hospitable and helpful. Overall a once in a lifetime trip. Thank You
- #158 Move take out up 5 miles.
- #159 I love it here!!!!
- > #160 Keep latrines! Max party size to 10.

- #161 Clean campsites. If you aren't already, initiate LAC campsite inventory process to inventory change over time. Nice job leasing some sites from ranchers and establishing an important relationship.
- > #162 Awesome time
- > #163 Awesome
- #165 Need to reduce number of people allowed per group, especially limit the size of outfitted groups to much lower size. Guided boats would be stacked up all over the river.
- #168 Great Trip
- #169 FWP is lucky to have Kirk working for them. He is a good representative for the state.
- #175 Owners need to keep dogs on leash would prefer no dogs on river.
- #177 Do not recommend snake bite kits (on the map) these are more dangerous then an actual snake bite.
- #179 Would be nice if map showed or stated somewhere the Upper/Middle/lower campsites
- ➤ #181 2nd year in a row we were double booked or at least the guy who had laid over the night before said he was in Upper Gulch but we never saw his permit. We said he could share ours. Need less permits per day far too many bo9ats on river.
- #182 Decrease outfitter #'s and increase private #'s
- #198 It is a very beautiful river, but I would say it is being utilized at its maximum level.
- > #194 Good Thank you
- #215 Suggestion after seeing this in Utah. This spring use aluminum cans to pay for project. Suggested project-wooden dressing area near latrines at Camp Baker. Take pressure off latrine use open-air wood structure, wood floor bench and hooks.
- #226 Great time again! Thanks so much!
- #227 Fish and Game personnel were very help and nice.
- #234 Amazing trip had by all. We were all(54) 1st timers down the corridor. Well managed and the experience of a lifetime. Thanks
- > #238 If you go to pack it out people will go all over the place on river. (something to consider)
- > #241 loved it
- > #240 very satisfied
- > #245 I love love love the Smith river wonderful 2nd trip down
- > #429 Thanks for all you do so we have this opportunity!
- #252 Great trip good job with dealing with lots of people FWP!!
- #253 Is there a friend of the Smith to provide support? Raise dollars for easements, site acquisitions volunteer maintenance floats.
- #271 Next time we float please try to arrange the absence of rain. Firewood at boat camps would be nice!
- #274 We were given helpful advice and encouragement every day be ranger Kirk who was also on the river which we appreciated very much. He is a credit to FWP. We were the only canoe on the river and he even asked the rafters to watch out for us.

- #277 I hope to see it again next year. Thanks Kyle McKee
- #704 Table Rock campsites were too close together.
- #193 Consider pack out waste
- #362 Lots of boats on second to last day but I think it's perfectly managed. I wouldn't want to see any more groups launching in one day.
- ➤ We took our two kids, 7 & 9 on two canoes and we all had a great time. Thanks for your efforts.
- # 178 Great trip! Get rid of dogs! Dogs can't fish.
- #8 Please reconsider allowing layovers in the upper river (Camp Baker to Two Creek) during the early season or during periods of foul weather. We had planned on a layover on this section due to the forecast for snow on the 18th and 19th but were informed that we could not do this on launch day (an oversight of ours). A layover would have been a great way to more fully enjoy the upper river as a snowstorm passed. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
- ➤ I just wanted to make a few comments about the weeds. I pulled houndstongue and clipped leafy spurge seed heads in every campground that we stayed at . With 400 campers in the river corridor, it seems that campers could make a real dent in the weed problem.
 - I don't think the glossy brochure that is handed to users by the rangers is very effective in helping manage the weeds. I think that a more helpful brochure would picture the most common weeds that campers are likely to see in the Smith River corridor (leafy spurge, Dalmatian Toadflax, Canada thistle, Hounds-tongue, musk thistle, knapweed) and tell them exactly what they can (and should) do about them.

For example, campers could be instructed to pull hounds-tongue and Dalmatian Toadflax, clip the "yellow" of the leafy spurge, clip and bag musk thistle seed heads, and pull knapweed. I think we'd have to leave the cutting of Canada Thistle (which will eventually rid an area of Canada Thistle, according to the Missoula Conservation District, to professionals with machetes and gloves. If everyone removed 10 weeds from each campsite, we could have an impact on the campsites along the Smith. I don't think it is out of the question to require campers to cut or remove 10 weeds from each campsite. Two years ago, when Ranger Will told us we were required to flush our pit toilet with at least 2 buckets of water, we did. And we continued to do so this year. Most campers will do what is asked if they understand the rationale behind the request.

A more concise, to-the-point weed brochure could educate Smith River users with some knowledge that they could take home to benefit their home communities.